

ORIGINAL



# STEPHENS PRODUCTION COMPANY

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52053

RSPA-98-4957-3

March 8, 1999

Dockets Facility  
U. S. Department of Transportation  
Plaza 401  
400 Seventh St. SW  
Washington, DC 20590  
Attn: Mr. Richard Felder

DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION  
Docket 100-100  
99 MAR 11 PM 2:30

**RE: Department of Transportation  
RSPA-98-4957; Notice 1  
Notice of Request for Extension of  
Existing Information Collection**

Dear Mr. Felder:

Stephens Production Company, ("Stephens"), recently reviewed the above referenced Notice and request for comments.

This proposed notice would require that operators of gas service lines who do not maintain buried customer piping up to **building** walls or certain other locations to notify their customers of the need to maintain that piping.

Stephens would like to ensure that this RSPA does **not** include oil and gas producers under the **definition** of "operator". Many oil and gas producers, (the lessee), under some oil and gas leases, are subject to a contract provision **requiring** the producer to permit the lessor to install a gas line from the **wellhead** to their home. This contract provision allows the lessor to have gas to heat his/her home with the gas produced from the well on his/her property free of costs. Under the terms of this contract provision, the lessor is solely responsible for the installation and maintenance of the gas line and connections. Furthermore, the lessor assumes all risk associated with the line and its connections under this contract that is negotiated between the lessor and the lessee. **In** this situation, Stephens does not believe that it is an "operator of gas service lines".

Additionally, in the event that the **Department** of Transportation determined that oil and gas producers did **fall** within the **ambit** of this notification **requirement**, the costs to create and maintain an annual notification system would create an undue **financial** burden on a company of our size.

To reiterate, Stephens would request that this notification proposal not apply to oil and gas producers who do not own or operate gas service lines.

Very truly yours,

STEPHENS PRODUCTION COMPANY

William L. Dawkins, Jr.  
General Counsel

WLD,Jr./lms